



California State Fire Marshal Informational Bulletin

EXCESS PYROTECHNIC OR SPECIAL EFFECTS MATERIALS

The motion picture/television and entertainment industries utilize many pyrotechnic special effects during the course of productions and/or events. During these types of activities, the pyrotechnic operator may have excess pyrotechnic/special effects materials at the conclusion of the event. It is the responsibility of the licensed pyrotechnic operator in charge to assure the materials are properly cared for.

In all cases, the pyrotechnic operator must have approval from the public agency having local jurisdiction (AHJ) on the disposition of the excess materials. The licensed pyrotechnic operator may choose to return the unused materials to an approved storage location, the manufacture, or wholesaler where the materials were purchased. The agency having jurisdiction (AHJ) should be contacted and the special effects permit which was originally issued should be changed to indicate this activity. In addition, the expiration date should be extended to allow the pyrotechnic operator time to transport the material to the specified location.

If the pyrotechnic operator chooses to activate the excess material as part of the special effects user permit, he/she should also contact the AHJ. The manufacture of those materials should be consulted if the pyrotechnic operator or the AHJ has a question or concern with proper activation methods. As with all pyrotechnic activity, extreme care and every safety precaution should be taken.

If you have any questions concerning excess pyrotechnic special effects materials, please contact Sr. Deputy Al Adams at the State Fire Marshal's Motion Picture/Entertainment Unit by telephoning (626) 305-1908.